

- Mr. Speaker, as we continue to make our way through the budget process, we must ensure that all funding reductions we make are done so in a responsible manner.

- While I strongly agree that we need to get our deficit under control, we cannot do it in a way that undermines public safety and job creation.

- For example, the Republican long-term C-R would cut \$88 million in funding from the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

- This little known cut would force food safety inspectors off of the job for over 30 days, resulting in the shutdowns of plants across the nation.

- The U-S-D-A has estimated that such cuts would result in \$11 billion in lost productivity.

- Additionally, meat and poultry production is supposed to grow over the next year- if we decrease funding for food safety there will be fewer inspectors to examine our food and make sure it is acceptable for consumption.

- Mr. Speaker, this is just one example of how we need to dissect each “cut” and the impact it would have in the real world.

- I hope this chamber can come together to make sensible decisions when it comes to reducing our deficit.